

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 239

January 1986

NEXT MEETING - FILM EVENING

I'll cheat with the blurb for the next meeting this time, by repeating what I said in the last Newsletter!

"The star billing for the main feature has to be reserved for Dick Brocks' film of last year's CARS National HF Field Day. Now you can see how it ought to be done! (or not... depending on which bits you watch!)"

"In addition we have several other films and videos lined up, including one from RSGB, hopefully the one about the W5LFL operation from space, another from British Aerospace about their new aircraft navigation system, called TERPROM, and one from Ferranti about high power laser cutting (just the thing for making up chassis parts?)."

"Do any of you have photos or slides of ham radio activities over the last year? If so, bring them along to be shown or to go on the noticeboard for everyone to see what has been happening."

And lastly, the usual reminder about venue and time: 7:30pm on 7 January, in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 7 Jan. - Film Evening.
- 18 Jan. - RSGB Presidential Installation Dinner
- 19 Jan. - "Snowman" DF Event
- 4 Feb. - B.N.O.S.
- 21 Feb. - Arrow Electronics visit
- 5 Mar. - Mobile Radio, G3YTE.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - Dick G3WHR.

How can you describe last month's lecture and demonstration of Satellite TV by John Donnithorne? It has to be out of this world! Originally scheduled for November and postponed, it was well worth waiting for.

John began with a brief history of the development of European satellite television starting with the OTS2 satellite, it should have started with OTS1 but that, like the recent ECS2 suffered from launch failure. There are currently two European Satellites in service, Eutelsat ECS1 and Intelsat 5, flight 10, both in "stationary" orbit above the equator.

John described the satellite transponders and the way spot beam antennas can be used to optimise the coverage or footprint. The UK up-link on 14.5GHz was illustrated by slides of the British Telecom Teleport in east London.

Receiving the signal after its 50000 mile round trip requires a bit more than the usual 18 element yagi. John took us gently through the system calculations necessary to determine the size of dish and receiver noise figure.

Then came the live demonstration with signals received from ECS1 via a 1.8 metre dish. John showed us the Marconi P3400, which is a high quality receiver intended for cable operators and other professional users.

The UK has 2 channels on ECS1, Music Box and Sky Channel, however the latter requires a special decoder. Fortunately the other programmes were not scrambled so we could all see what the rest of Europe might be watching.

John concluded his lecture by outlining some future trends in satellite TV including direct broadcast by satellite using high power transponders. Terrestrial broadcasting in Bands 1 and 3 has ceased in the UK. How many years will it be before Bands 4 and 5 are also redundant?

Lastly, I would like to thank not only John for organising and presenting the demonstration, but also his Manager, Barry Miller, at MCSL, for making available both the facilities and John's time to set it all up. Thank you for a very successful evening!

RSGB PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION DINNER

On Saturday, 18 January 1986, Willy McClintock, G3VPK, is to be installed as President of the RSGB at a dinner at Furze Hill, Margaretting.

Tickets will be distributed at the next meeting to members who requested them from the Committee last month, assuming that the Christmas post has settled down by then. Please bring the full money with you to give to Andrew, our Secretary, at the January meeting: £4.00 per head. At present we have the names of 30 people who wish to go.

If you would like to go, but did not put your name down on our list, details of how to apply for tickets are in the December RadCom (Page 1 of the RSGB News Bulletin centre insert). Applications must be received at RSGB Headquarters, Potters Bar, by 8 January.

SILENT KEY

Although not in our membership, the Society records with regret the death of a well known local amateur.

Ray Smea G3BLA died on 16th December. His long association with amateur radio began when serving as a telegraphist in the RAF. 80 metres was his favourite band for keeping in regular touch with ex-RAF colleagues. His proficiency, along with G5RV and G2HPF at field days earned the 'Chelmsford Group' an envied reputation in the early days before our Society was formed. Many will remember him from his business in the motor trade and 'The Garage' at Boreham.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR.

Nothing new to report this month, except to remind you that the "Snowman" DF Event will be held on Sunday, 19 January, starting from Fordham Heath, TL945264, at 1:30pm. Afterwards the survivors can thaw out at 30, Rowan Drive, Heybridge.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to three new members this month:

R.E. Brown, G1NLZ, Eric McPherson, G4WMT and P.F. Martin, G8ZXW.

ARROW VISIT

Brian Thwaites has organised a visit to the premises of Arrow Electronics in Hatfield Peveral for Friday, 21 February 1986. It starts at 7:30pm until about 9:00pm. This will be an ideal opportunity to see not only what new gear is available these days, but also to see and hear it in action. There is plenty of parking space, and tea or coffee will be available. If you would like to come along, please give your name to a Committee member at the next meeting.

RFI NEWS - Brian G3CVI.

The reports from Hampshire, where two Amateur stations are threatened with having injunctions served against them, are still confused. No definite steps have been taken, yet.

The new generation of electronic telephones is very susceptible to RF Interference, some to the extent that all their memories are erased as soon as a transmitter is operated in the vicinity. Please send me (Brian Thwaites, G3CVI) details if you have any such experiences with your own 'phone, or a neighbour's. Note that SSB can be almost Q5 to both ends of a 'phone line, so you might be causing QRM in unexpected situations! It might be best to find out who is on the 'phone before you open up on the air.

CQ DIXIE: Success at last - Bill G4JUW.

The proposed meeting-on-the-air of members of the Central Georgia Club and CARS has happened - almost by accident.

After weeks of indifferent band conditions I arranged a sked between myself and Pete, N4BHB, on Thursday November 28th. I knew Pete would be available on this day because it was Thanksgiving Day which, being a National Holiday, also meant a lot of stateside QRM, so the sked was set for 1430 UTC (0930 EST).

Once we found a vacant slot, Pete and I found conditions to be quite good, but with VERY deep QSB. By chance Ron, G2AGY, was tuning around and happened upon the QSO and joined in to bolster the numbers. Then, to complete the foursome, Pete telephoned (cheating?) George, KF4FR, who came up on frequency. Thus I think we can claim this to be the first (albeit unadvertised) net between the two clubs. Let us hope for many more in the future, and for better band conditions to enjoy them with.

"AMATEUR RADIO"

An offer has been made by the publishers of *Amateur Radio* magazine. If five or more members subscribe for a year, with all copies delivered to the same address, a 25% discount is available from the cover price of £1.20. This brings the individual cost down to £0.80 a year per person. If you are interested, get in touch with the Treasurer, Bill Cole, G4JUW, who will coordinate it.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Ela, our Membership Secretary, wishes to remind all who have not yet renewed their subscription for 1986 to do so now. The annual purge of the Newsletter mailing list is about to occur, so be sure that this isn't your last copy!

Ela's address is:-

'Little Fellows', 1, High Houses, Mashbury Road, Gt. Waltham, CM3 1EL.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The January Committee Meeting will be held in the bar of the Marconi College at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 15 January 1986.

73 and a happy new year from Ian, G4BYR.

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